

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

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May 13, 2008

Dear: Advisory Committee Members and Interested Parties

Re: Decompression procedures for non-diving pressurized worksite operations

A public advisory committee meeting will be held in Sacramento on June 30, 2008 at 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 300, in the Occupational Safety and Health Appeals Board Hearing Room, to discuss proposed amendments to California Code of Regulations, Title 8, General Industry Safety Orders, Article 154 regarding decompression procedures. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude by 5:00 p.m. The agenda for the meeting and the roster of committee members and interested parties are attached.

The decompression procedures in Article 154 rely on U.S. Navy decompression procedures that are more than 50 years old. These Navy procedures were recently superseded by Revision 6 of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual, which can be downloaded from the U.S. Navy website at <http://www.supsalv.org/>. The proposal to be considered and, if appropriate, developed by the advisory committee is to replace the decompression procedures in Article 154 with the decompression procedures in Revision 6 of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual. The revised navy decompression procedures use oxygen during decompression to accelerate elimination of excess nitrogen from the body.

For your information, I have attached two articles regarding tunnel boring machines, OSHA decompression tables, and the use of oxygen during decompression. Information regarding rulemaking and the advisory committee process can be found on the OSHSB website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OSHSB/oshsb.html>. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please call or email me. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Tom Mitchell, CIH
Senior Safety Engineer

Attachments:

1. Advisory Committee Roster
2. Meeting Agenda
3. Proposed Amendments for Advisory Committee Consideration
4. Article 154, Pressurized Worksite Operations, <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/sb7g26a154.html>

5. U.S. Navy Diving Manual - Revision 6, Chapter 9 and Appendix 2A
6. Hyperbaric Health and Safety, *Tunnels & Tunneling International*, May 2007
7. Compressed air tunneling and caisson work decompression procedures: development, problems, and solutions, UHMS.

cc: (With Attachments)

All Standards Board Members

Marley Hart, Executive Officer, OSHSB

Michael Manieri, Principal Engineer, OSHSB

Len Welsh, Chief, DOSH

Vicky Heza, Deputy Chief, DOSH

Steve Hart, Principal Engineer, DOSH Mining & Tunneling Unit

Larry McCune, Principal Engineer, DOSH Research & Standards Unit

Tina Kulinovich, Industrial Hygienist, Region IX, Federal OSHA

Kevin Thompson, Cal/OSHA Reporter